

# Mississippi EARLY RESTORATION Round 1 projects Monitoring Data Information Package

Mississippi's Artificial Reef Restoration Project



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## Artificial Reef Project

### Project description

The Mississippi Artificial Reef Habitat project was proposed to deploy nearshore artificial reefs in the Mississippi Sound. Nearshore artificial reefs provide valuable hardbottom habitat with foraging and shelter sites for various species of larvae and sessile epifauna and infauna. Approximately 25,000 cubic yards of cultch material (#57 domestic limestone) was used to restore and enhance the forty-two (42) artificial reefs during the Spring 2013 Deployment. Approximately 4,000 cubic yards of cultch material was used to enhance and restore five (5) artificial reefs in the Fall 2012 Deployment. The resulting artificial reefs consisted of low profile reefs, 4 to 6 inches above the seafloor.

### Status update

- Artificial reefs were enhanced in Fall 2012 and Spring 2013.
- Samples were collected at four sites on the western most reefs using basket and tray sampling to obtain information on all secondary productivity on these reefs. One monitoring events occurred in 2014 and samples are still being processed in the laboratory. Data on taxonomy and biomass are expected in Spring 2015.

	2014	2015	2016
Biological Monitoring – Secondary Productivity of epibenthic organisms	*Deployed May 2014 *Retrieved July 2014	*Sample processing from 2014 – to be completed in spring *2 <sup>nd</sup> field sampling event To be completed May/June	*Sample processing for 2 <sup>nd</sup> field event

### Included in package

1. Map of locations of deployment and monitoring sites [File name: MS ER Artificial Reef\_Deployment and Monitoring Sites]